

Welcome

This Newsletter brings news of a series of new research awards for ISSTI members. We are very pleased to note the double successes by Jane Calvert and by Ashley Lloyd under the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council's experimental 'sandpit' mechanism for adventurous interdisciplinary studies around, respectively Synthetic Biology and the Digital Economy. Ann Bruce has secured two awards from the Economic and Social Research Council to carry forward her research and policy engagement into animal agriculture. And Alesandro Rosiello and Stewart Russell have both secured European Union funding for research designed to improve policy interventions around, respectively Innovation/R&D and sustainable energy initiatives. At the same time findings are being disseminated from a range of current projects, including e-science, cleaner innovation, dependable innovation and the use of mobile phone in Africa. These point to the breadth of expertise and activity across the ISSTI network as well as our strong interdisciplinary and policy engagements.

Sandpit Success



Two ISSTI members have secured Engineering and Physical Science Research Council sandpit awards. These arise from intensive multidisciplinary workshops involving active researchers and potential users of research, to drive lateral thinking and radical approaches to particular research challenges.

[See page 2 for full report](#)

Understanding and governing complex financial instruments

Donald MacKenzie and Iain Hardie are applying insights from science and technology studies to analysing new financial products

[See page 5 for full report](#)

Life sciences research patterns explored

Robin Williams and Graham Pryor launched the findings of their study of *information use and exchange in life sciences* for the British Library and Research Information Network with a keynote presentation by Sir Kenneth Calman, Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute and Chancellor, University of Glasgow.

[See page 6 for full report](#)

Mobile Phones in Africa

Edinburgh doctoral research showing how the mobile phone has contributed to rural development in Kenya has received wide publicity

[See page 7 for full report](#)



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New Awards

ISSTI success in EPSRC sandpit competitions

Two ISSTI members have secured Engineering and Physical Science Research Council sandpit awards. These arise from intensive multidisciplinary workshops involving active researchers and potential users of research, to drive lateral thinking and radical approaches to particular research challenges.

Synthetic biology and creative design - unlikely bedfellows?

Jane Calvert's award is in the area of Synthetic Biology, joint with the US National Science Foundation.

The project, *Synthetic aesthetics: connecting synthetic biology and creative design*, is a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh (Jane Calvert, ISSTI and Alistair Elfick, Engineering) and Stanford University, California (Drew Endy, Bioengineering) and will bring together scientists and engineers working in synthetic biology with artists and designers working in the creative industries, and it will analyse the interactions that result. This could lead to new forms of engineering, new schools of art, and new approaches to societal engagement with synthetic biology.

For further information, please contact Jane Calvert at jane.calvert@ed.ac.uk



Photo: Robert Frith/Acorn Photo Agency

Bridging the technological gap

Ashley Lloyd in the University of Edinburgh Business School, with colleagues at Leeds and Middlesex have been awarded over £750,000 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Council to carry out a project entitled Building Relationships with the 'Invisible' in the Digital (Global) Economy - BRIDGE.

This project aims to address issues of access to products, services and government that increasingly rely on people being able to use information and communications technologies: from computers to mobile phones. Whilst there are many obvious benefits to those already familiar with the technology, those that do not have the skills or inclination to interact through such technology can get excluded and this may eventually lead to a permanent disadvantage. These groups within society can be very large according to the UK government, with 70% of over 65s reported as never having used the Internet (www.statistics.gov.uk, 2008).

As companies grow in scale and design products and services for global rather than local markets it becomes harder to track these partially excluded groups. This is reported as a growing 'psychic distance' between the designers of technologies and the prospective users of those technologies, with a risk that those excluded from the market today will become effectively invisible to designers of future products. Such users' requirements of technology no longer inform the design process and create a digital divide that is socially constructed rather than economically constrained. This is neither good for society nor business, where such exclusion may alienate, as well as prevent business from identifying and engaging with latent demand for their products and services.

This project aims to build a 'Bridge' from the needs of technologically excluded users to the capabilities of suppliers of products and services. This will be achieved through exploration of users' expectations, desires and needs, building design guidelines to help address them, and extrapolating the results to wider markets in the global digital economy.

In order to realise these goals, qualitative research

methods will be used to deliver a detailed picture of user needs, and combined with quantitative methods developed with Lloyd's colleagues at The Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre to map that to the 'digital' view large global corporations typically hold about their current customers and markets.

User needs identified through qualitative methods are thus related to behavioural characteristics observed through analysis of corporate data and modelling of demand within global markets. This element of the project builds on direct engagement with industry, both with designers, and their existing customers, as well as the organisational processes and data that relate one to the other and informs the designer's view of their users.

Through direct engagement with users, designers and producers, BRIDGE will contribute to the design of new products, services and interfaces. As design improves and becomes more socially inclusive, better and more sustainable relationships with consumers should be established. This knowledge can be used to identify latent demand and hence opportunities for expansion within global markets for UK industry with the potential to benefit individuals, society and the economy overall.

For further information, please contact Ashley Lloyd at ashley@ed.ac.uk

North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning

ISSTI is one of three UK partners in a European consortium starting a major project this month on local energy planning initiatives.

North Sea SEP is an ambitious three-year project funded by the European Regional Development Fund INTERREG IVb programme.

It brings together local authorities, research groups and consultancies from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Scotland to examine new organisational forms and governance for local sustainable energy initiatives, and to pursue a range of projects aimed at local coordination of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Stewart Russell leads ISSTI's work on North Sea SEP.

The first project meeting for NSSEP, with some 30 delegates from the partner countries, was held in Dundee and Edinburgh at the start of November.

For further information, please contact Stewart Russell at stewart.russell@ed.ac.uk

Off to Westminster...

Ann Bruce, Senior Research Fellow at Innogen, has been successful with two ESRC awards. Ann will be heading south each week in the Autumn to work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in London on an ESRC Placement Fellowship.

During the 15-week placement she will be using her combined expertise in science and technology studies and animal agriculture to explore attitudes, behaviours and wider social impacts of newly emerging veterinary diagnostic technologies, working with Defra and the Technology Strategy Board.

The ESRC Placement fellowships are aimed at increasing interaction between academic research and policy.

Fellows remain employed with their respective academic or government unit, but the salary for the period is funded 50% by ESRC and 50% by the government department benefiting from the work.

In addition, Ann has been awarded an ESRC small-grant for a study of 'Mitigating the environmental impact of cattle and sheep: animal genetics and farmers' readiness for uptake' that will run for two years from January 2010.

For further information, please contact Ann Bruce at ann.bruce@ed.ac.uk



Research News

ISSTI RA success in Scottish Crucible

ISSTI researcher and Scottish Crucible participant Lisa Lee will be collaborating on the following two new projects that have been funding as part of the 2009 Scottish Crucible Programme.

Is "grow your own" sustainable urban food production?

The idea of "grow your own" vegetables is appealing to many people and recent media interest is encouraging communities to embrace the practice. The message conveyed through most media sources is that home-grown food comes with increased health, social and environmental well-being. However garden soils may represent a potential exposure point for a wide range of contaminants. This project seeks to find out therefore what differences, if any, exist between the actual soil composition in specific urban sites used to grow edible products, and individual users' perceptions of the benefits and risks of growing food in such sites. Garden spaces in the cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow will be tested for organic and inorganic contaminants, and users of sites interviewed. The project, which is due to start in October 2009 and will run for a duration of 12 months, is a collaboration between the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Strathclyde, the Scottish Crop Research Institute, The Urban Water Technology Centre at the University of Abertay, and ISSTI.



and activities aimed at improving the management of research and innovation in HEIs. The project is based on the premise that even good policies may fail to deliver and that policy makers and practitioners need improved systems or predictive models to help them develop, monitor, implement and operate policies that seek to support innovation in universities. The research team will approach the development of such models from a user-centred perspective by engaging with key stakeholders from academia, business, government, learned societies, and other relevant bodies, to find out if, how, in which situations, at what stage and why models can provide support for the management of research and innovation. A collaboration between ISSTI, the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Edinburgh University, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at St Andrews University, the Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Aberdeen, Cardiff University School of Engineering, the School of Business, Management and Enterprise at Queen Margaret University, and the Computer Sciences Department at Heriot Watt University, the project will start in November 2009 and run until July 2010.

Scottish Crucible is a new leadership and development programme for 'Scotland's research leaders of tomorrow', supported by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Nesta, the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen and St Andrews, the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament.

Strengthening the Management of Research and Innovation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

In line with the Scottish Government's vision to strengthen Scotland's science base, there has been in recent years a rise in the range and number of policies

Thirty of Scotland's most promising researchers from academia and industry were selected to take part in a series of intensive two day workshops. At the end of the programme participants were invited to submit interdisciplinary research proposals to a small project fund. The follow projects.

More information on the Scottish Crucible Programme can be found at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/scottishcrucible/>

ISSTI researcher on TARGET

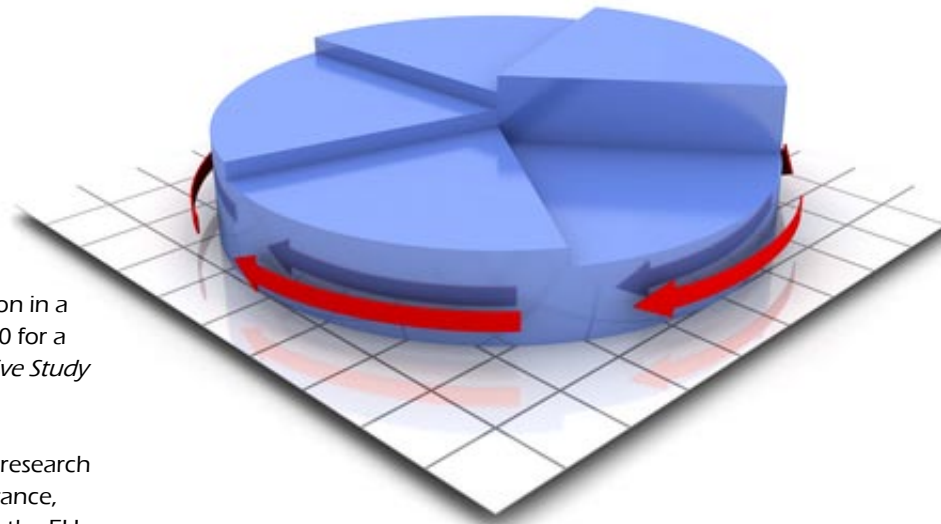
Alessandro Rosiello is leading ISSTI's contribution in a consortium that has just secured over £800,000 for a new project *TARGET: International Comparative Study of Targeted Innovation and R & D Policy*.

TARGET has eight partners (public bodies and research institutes) from six countries: Israel, Slovenia, France, Spain, Lithuania and the UK. It is funded under the EU 7th Framework programme.

The aim of TARGET is to design and develop a structured and valorised set of recommendations and guidelines, and from these produce a toolkit for formulating and implementing targeted R&D policies. It focusses on the life science and biomedicine sector.

The toolkit has several objectives: defining strategic priorities, evaluating technological gaps, identifying elements of the national or regional innovation system responsible for achieving the selected priorities including providing the missing elements, identifying potential system failures, formulating effective policies, and achieving coordination among the relevant policy makers and ministries.

For further information, contact Alessandro.Rosiello@ed.ac.uk



Understanding and governing complex financial instruments

Donald Mackenzie and Iain Hardie have started work on a new project *Understanding and Governing Complex Financial Instruments: a 'Social Studies of Finance' Investigation of Multi-Name Credit Derivatives*.

It focuses on two closely related issues: how the properties of a particular set of complex financial instruments – multi-name credit derivatives – are understood; and how these instruments are governed.

The project will entail about eighty interviews with traders, managers, modellers, regulators, accountants, auditors and rating agency staff. The research will contribute to the emerging field of social studies of finance, which, rather than trying to understand financial markets just through economics, draws on other areas of the social sciences – specifically science and technology studies, and politics, especially comparative and international political economy.

Research on missile defence put on the radar

Graham Spinardi has been awarded a grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland to undertake further research on missile defence in the Nixon archives in Washington DC.

For further information, please contact [Graham Spinardi](mailto:Graham.Spinardi@ed.ac.uk) at graham.spinardi@ed.ac.uk



Kenneth Calman launches ISSTI report of life science research

Sir Kenneth Calman, Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute and Chancellor, University of Glasgow launched a report by the British Library and the Research Information Network (RIN) that provides unique insight into how information is used by researchers across life sciences. Undertaken by ISSTI and the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), the report concludes that 'one-size-fits-all' information and data sharing policies are not achieving scientifically productive and cost-efficient information use in life sciences.

The report, Patterns of information use and exchange: case studies of researchers in the life sciences (www.rin.ac.uk/case-studies), was developed using an innovative approach to capture the day-to-day patterns of information use in seven research teams from a wide range of disciplines, from botany to clinical neuroscience. The study that there is a significant gap between how researchers behave and the policies and strategies of funders and service providers. This suggests that the attempts to implement such strategies have had only a limited impact. Key findings from the report

include:

- Researchers used informal and trusted sources of advice from colleagues, rather than institutional service teams, to help identify information sources and resources
- The use of social networking tools for scientific research purposes was far more limited than expected
- Data and information sharing activities are mainly driven by needs and benefits perceived as most important by life scientists rather than 'top-down' policies and strategies
- Differences were apparent in the patterns of information use and exchange between different disciplines within the life scientists reinforcing the need to avoid generalisation in policy making

The research team on this project comprised Robin Williams, Wendy Marsden Ann Bruce Jane Caltvert from Innogen and ISSTI and Stuart MacDonald, Colin Neilson and Graham Pryor from DCC.

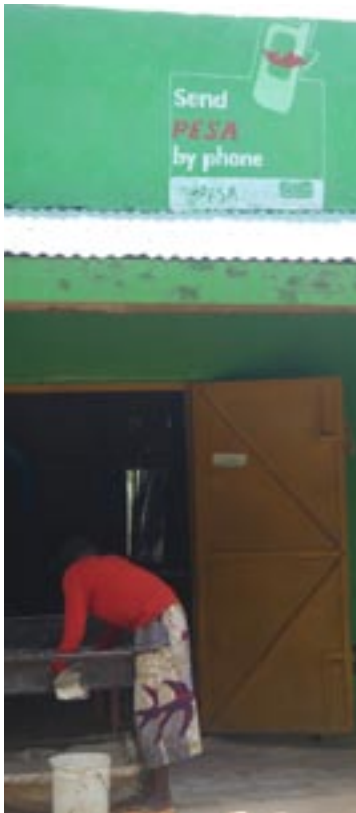


Patterns of information use and exchange: case studies of researchers in the life sciences

A report by the Research Information Network and the British Library

November 2009

Mobile phones in Africa: Edinburgh Doctoral research is featured in a special edition of the Economist



ISSTI PhD student Olga Morawczynski has recently returned from her fieldwork in Kenya, studying the adoption of the 'mobile money' application M-PESA. As well as presenting her findings at several international conferences, Olga was interviewed for a special report in the Economist in September on 'telecomms in emerging markets'. http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483848



Olga initially focussed on this particular mobile phone service thinking it was likely to fail, but she found its use has grown exponentially, from half a million users in Kenya in late 2007 when she started her research, to some seven million now.

It has had substantial economic and social impacts too, particularly in increasing incomes for subsistence farmers by allowing convenient transfer of money from urban migrant workers back to the rural areas they come from.

Olga takes up an internship with Microsoft in India next year, which will allow her to explore other ways new technologies are bringing about change in daily life in developing countries.

The Organisation of Cleaner Innovation

ISSTI researcher Nils Markusson's new book *The Organisation of Cleaner Innovation: Integrating environmental concerns into process technology investment projects* is now available.

The environmental innovation literature is dominated by accounts assuming that ever-improving environmental performance is the result of the mechanistic implementation of management strategy.

This study instead investigates the politics and contingent organisational

dynamics of investment projects, with the aim to shed new light on how environmental concerns are integrated into them.

Four case studies in the chemical and dairy industries of Scotland and Sweden are compared. The analysis of the cases is focussed on three themes: the relationship of environmental work and staff with engineering and management, the formation of environmental championing behaviour and the integration of environmental motives into the projects.

The book is aimed at academics and policy makers, as it offers a critique of the notion of cleaner technology and explores the structural limits of greening, alongside practical advice on how to promote and manage such greening. It will also be relevant to those with an interest in the interplay between technology and organisation or in the greening of industry.

For further information, please contact Nils Markusson at nils.markusson@ed.ac.uk

Events

Decarbonising Scotland

The Scottish and UK governments have adopted ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets. The goals are now clear, but uncertainties remain as to what policy approaches can deliver on these targets.

ISSTI member Nils Markusson and colleagues at Edinburgh and Strathclyde are running a series of workshops *Delivering System Change: Governing Decarbonisation in Scotland*, between September 2009 and January 2010.

The events are hosted at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Strathclyde, and sponsored by the IAS and the Scottish Government.

The first workshop in early September brought together academics and practitioners to discuss approaches to energy systems transitions.

Speakers included Colin Imrie of the Scottish Government, Hugo Brouwer from the Netherlands Energy Transitions Directorate, Professor Andrew Jamison from Aalborg University in Denmark, and Dr Adrian Smith from SPRU at Sussex.

The results of the discussions, including a strong interest in Dutch 'frontrunner projects', will be taken further at the next workshop in November.

For more information, see the project webpage: www.instituteforadvancedstudies.org.uk/Programmes/GoverningDecarbonisation.aspx or contact Nils Markusson: nils.markusson@ed.ac.uk, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh

ESRC Genomics Network 4th International Conference

The next ESRC Genomics Network International Conference will be held in Paris on 6 December 2010. The conference is being organised by the ESRC Genomics Forum in partnership with the OECD Global Forum on Biotechnology. More details about this event will be available soon.

For further details contact the ESRC Genomics Forum on 0131 651 4747.

Event Reports

Issues for Interdisciplinary Research Groups

A new short guide on developing interdisciplinary strategies for research groups has been added to our short interdisciplinary guides series.

This latest (A Short Guide to Developing Interdisciplinary Strategies for Research Groups) was developed in conjunction with participants at the recent workshop that we ran on behalf of the Association of Research Centres in the Social Sciences.

The one-day workshop *Strategies and Challenges for Interdisciplinary Research Groups* was held in September. Particularly thanks to the series of *Interdisciplinary Masterclasses* Dr Catherine Lyall has run for the ESRC over the past three years, and the briefing notes and other material coming out of these, ISSTI has gained a reputation as a leading centre not only conducting interdisciplinary work but examining the issues involved in it and providing practical guidance on it.

Rather than focussing on the opportunities and challenges as individual researchers or projects face them, this workshop was aimed at those who are leading or managing interdisciplinary units. Speakers and discussions tackled issues such as career paths, profile-building, the expectations of funding agencies, and the sometimes uncomfortable position of interdisciplinary groups in their parent organisations. Nearly thirty people attended from across the UK, but there was a pleasing number of representatives of established and new Scottish groups, and several people taking on responsibility for setting up and supporting cross-disciplinary work within science and engineering schools. The success of the workshop is prompting ISSTI and ARCISS to consider further events taking up specific questions.

The guide can be downloaded from our wiki tinyurl.com/idwiki along with the others in the series (developing and reviewing ID research proposals, supervising ID PhDs, building ID research teams and designing ID research for policy and practice).



ISSTI 20:20 vision

On 27 May about 40 colleagues from the ISSTI network boarded the 8 o'clock train out of Edinburgh, heading south to The White Swan in Alnwick for its annual retreat: ISSTI 20:20 Vision. For two days, we discussed the past, present and future of the field that unites the disparate



Mario Biagioli

yet exciting work in ISSTI – Science and Technology Studies (STS). In the Olympic Suite – a grand room bedecked with wood panels from the ballroom of the sister ship to the Titanic – we were treated to scene-setting talks from staff and students of the Institute and from our guest, Mario Biagioli.

Stewart Russell and Jane Calvert

set the reflective tone of the retreat, encouraging discussion of the multiple roles and interactions we find ourselves involved in and the related question of the role of critique in STS work. Led by Steve Sturdy and Mario Biagioli, we considered the intellectual contribution the sociology of knowledge (particularly the 'Edinburgh approach') has made to the field and suggested new

research areas where this approach could enrich our understanding of developments in science, technology and medicine. Donald MacKenzie's later talk on the credit crisis reinforced Steve and Mario's points by demonstrating the insights a sociology of knowledge approach brings to understanding complex cases like this.

ISSTI's PhD students provided a notable high point of the retreat: a reflective session on the multiple futures of STS. Drawing on their own research topics, Isobel Fletcher, Nathan Gove and Juan Pablo made an impassioned collective defence of a theoretically rigorous but socially relevant STS. Their enthusiasm was coupled with a sophisticated awareness of the challenges faced by the field and for the individuals working in it.

The Retreat provided an opportunity to record the achievements of our colleague Dr Wendy Faulkner, Senior Lecturer in the Science Studies Unit, who is taking early retirement after 22 years. Her work in developing the postgraduate programmes in Science and Technology Studies paved the way for the current success of ISSTI.

Wendy has an international reputation for her research into the contribution of public sector research to innovation and above all on gender relations in science and technology. We thank her for all her efforts (including her insightful contributions to the Retreat) and offer her best wishes for the future, and we are pleased that she will stay in close touch with the Institute.

In her final address to colleagues, Wendy gave us the benefit of her knowledge and experience of innovation



studies by setting out the intellectual genealogy of Edinburgh's contribution to this area and reminding us of its valuable contribution to the broader field.

Providing both a platform for the 'old timers', offering their experiences and insights from a field they have been active and



Wendy Faulkner

central in developing over some thirty years, and an opportunity for our cohort of excellent research students to point to the future they will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping, the 2009 ISSTI Retreat was judged a great success – intensive, timely, worthwhile and enjoyable. Participants went away keen to convert that 20:20 vision into a 2020

Understanding

National Museums Scotland, in association with ISSTI, launched a second series of the successful public lectures Understanding Technology for 2009/10.

Professor Mats Fridlund from the Centre for Advanced Security Theory at the University of Copenhagen, started the series on September 17 with 'The Tools of Terror: Technologies of Terrorism from the Scottish Maiden to the Glasgow Car Bomb'. Details are on the ISSTI website.



Mats Fridlund

In the final lecture in

Technology – new public

the last series, 'Winston Churchill as Inventor and Product Champion', Professor David Edgerton from Imperial College argued from the wartime prime minister's memoirs and archives for a reinterpretation of his role in promoting military innovations.



David Edgerton

AIM Fellows Joint Meeting

AIM Innovation and Services Fellows held a joint meeting at the University of Edinburgh hosted by AIM Innovation Fellow, Dr Luciana D'Adderio and attended by AIM directors Andy Neely and Robin Wensley. Participants presented three slides 'for someone important in policy and/or practice'.

The meeting gave everyone the opportunity to learn

from each other and also generated a number of potential avenues for joint research which will doubtless be explored in future.

A further benefit of the meeting was a presentation by David Champion European Editor of Harvard Business Review who gave an extremely informative presentation on the HBR publishing process.



Selected New ISSTI publications

Lara Crossland, 'Communicating science', *Society Now*, 3, Spring 2009, p7

Luciana D'Adderio, 'Competing by managing paradoxes.', In : *ESRC Society in Britain 2010* (Forthcoming)

Luciana D'Adderio, 'At the edge of innovation: why shifts in the boundaries of innovation matter.' AIM Innovation Cohort Report, September 2009.

John Henry, 'Bilim Devrimi ve modern Bilimin Kökenleri', translated by Ihsan Fazlioglu, Istanbul, Kure Yayinlari, 2009. [Turkish translation of 'The scientific revolution and the origins of modern science.', Basingstoke and New York, Palgrave, 2002]

John Henry, 'Sir Kenelm Digby, recusant philosopher.' In: G. A. J. Rogers, Tom Sorrell, and Jill Kraye (eds), *Insiders and outsiders in the seventeenth century*. London and New York, Routledge, 2009, pp43-75

John Henry, 'Isaac Newton: ciencia y religión en la unidad de su pensamiento.' *Estudios de Filosofía*, 38, 2008, pp 69-101

John Henry, 'Jean Fernel (1497-1558)' In: Joseph P. Byrne (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of pestilence, pandemics and plagues*, 2 vols, Westport, Connecticut, Greenwood Press, 2008, i, pp212-13

Catherine Lyall, Theo Papaioannou and James Smith, *The limits to governance: the challenge of policy-making for the new life sciences*. Farnham, Ashgate, 2009, xvi

Alfonso Molina, 'Insights into the nature of hybridity in social innovation and entrepreneurship', 2009, 50p.

Donald MacKenzie, 'All those arrows' [Review of *Fool's gold: how unrestrained greed corrupted a dream, shattered global markets and unleashed a catastrophe*; by Gillian Tett. Little, Brown, 2009], *London Review of Books*, 31, 12, 25/6/09, pp20-2

Neil Pollock and Robin Williams, 'The sociology of a market-analysis tool: how industry analysts sort vendors and organize markets.', *Information and Organization*, 19, 2009, pp129-51

Neil Pollock, Robin Williams, Luciana D'Adderio and Christine Grimm, 'Post local forms of repair: The (extended) situation of virtualised technical support.' *Information and Organization*, 2009 (In press), online version available

Graham Spinardi, 'Technological controversy and US ballistic missile defense: Star Warriors versus the Huntsville mafia', *Defence Studies*, 9, 3, September 2009, pp354-84

Julian Warner, *Human information retrieval*. Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press, 2010. viii, 189p

Staff and Visitors

Congrats to our new graduates

Several more ISSTI research students have recently completed and passed their degrees.

Pablo Shyfter will receive his PhD this Autumn, for his thesis *Technology, power and gender performance: an analysis of technology's role in the persistence of hegemonic gender hierarchies*. We're pleased that Pablo is staying with us to take up a research project and some teaching this coming year.

Chiang Shulin was awarded her PhD in July for her thesis *An Interpretive Approach to Digital Divide Policy-Making: a Comparative Study of China and Taiwan*. Last month Shulin took up a position as Assistant Professor of Journalism at the Culture University (CCU) – one of the largest and most highly rated universities in Taiwan. She is teaching courses in Mass Communication Theories, News Editing, News English and Science Communication.

ISSTI PhD student starting research fellowship at SATSU

Sian Beynon-Jones, currently completing her PhD at ISSTI, will soon be starting an eighteen month Research Fellowship at SATSU at the University of York, working with Nik Brown on the European project Impact of Citizen Participation on Decision-Making in a Knowledge Intensive Policy Field.

Student intake and award holders

We welcome a new cohort of postgraduate students to the programmes we run for the Graduate School of Social and Political Science: the Masters in Science and Technology Studies and in Science and Technology Policy and Management, and the Masters by Research and PhD in Science and Technology Studies. As always, the students are from all parts of the world, including this year Turkey, Hong Kong, Korea, the USA, India, South Africa and Malta – and of course all corners of the UK and several countries in the EU.

Among the new intake are several recipients of awards, and we congratulate them – not least because all of the awards were contested by large numbers of impressive candidates.

The David Edge studentship, awarded in honour of the founder of the Science Studies Unit, is awarded this year to **Robin Grenfell**. Robin has a degree in Chemical Physics from Edinburgh, and has been working since 2005 at the National Physical Laboratory. Robin takes up a place on the MSc Science and Technology Policy and Management. His interest in processes of policy formation and regulation on chemicals has been sparked by his involvement in international negotiations on measurement standards for volatile organic compounds.



ISSTI has gained its first collaborative studentship provided by the ESRC and the Scottish Government. **Dominic Jackson** will work with Sarah Parry and Sarah Cunningham-Burley examining strategies for public engagement in science. Dominic completed a BA (Hons) in Politics this year at the University of Strathclyde, with a dissertation on welfare and public policy.



Neil Bennet receives the new Innogen Masters Studentship for the Life Sciences and Biotechnology specialism in the MSc Science and Technology Studies. Neil is another Edinburgh alumnus, with a background in biological sciences and biomedical research. He has become increasingly interested in the nature of research in those fields, in their wider social policy implications, and in the way they are treated in public debate and media coverage.



New staff arrivals



Dr Mhairi Aitken began an ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in ISSTI at the beginning of July. The fellowship will build on her PhD research and focus on disseminating the findings both to academic and policy audiences. Her research examines community experiences with the planning and development of

renewable energy projects. In particular, she is interested in the ways in which 'non-experts' contribute to debates around contentious technological projects. Mhairi carried out her PhD at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, and previously worked in the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in Westminster. Before her PhD she studied Sociology at the University of York, and completed a Masters in Environment and Development at the University of East Anglia.

Dr Dave Hawkey has started work as a Research Fellow on the new North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning project (see page 3). Dave has just completed the MSc Environmental Sustainability at Edinburgh, with a dissertation on the prospects for district heating in the UK, to add to a PhD in the evolution of language, an MSc in cognitive science and an MPhys in physics. He is a member of the Edinburgh Community Energy Cooperative, and treasurer of SCOT, a local sustainable consumption charity. He is interested in transitions towards sustainability, particularly in the energy sector.

